(iii) Keeping immediate vicinity of workings in underground mine wet with water spraying and cleaning and stone dusting of old workings;

(iv) Installation of gas monitoring system in fire-prone underground mines;

(v) Provision of fire fighting equipment;

(vi) Frequent inspection of workings; and

(vii) Blanketting of surface to fill up cracks in case of surface subsidence.

[English]

Vacant Posts of Judges

1132. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appointments made in Supreme Court and various High Courts during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that inspite of these appointments, the posts of judges are lying vacant in Supreme Court and High Courts resulting in delay in the judicial process;

(c) if so, the number of vacancies still unfilled court-wise;

(d) the reasons for not filling the vacant posts of judges in courts; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) A Statement showing the number of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts made during 1995 and 1996 and the number of vacancies on 1.1.1997, is attached.

(d) and (e) The procedure for such appointments involves consultations among several constitutional authorities. However, every effort is being made to fill existing vacancies at the earliest.

Statement

Sl.No.	High Court	Appointments made in		Vacancies of Judges/ Addl. Judges as on
		1995	1996	1.1.1997
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	8	5	9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11	4	1
3.	Bombay	4	12	11
4.	Calcutta	10	-	10
5.	Delhi	4	2	3
6.	Gauhati	-	4	1
7.	Gujarat	7	-	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	-	-
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	-	2
10.	Karnataka	9	3	5
11.	Kerala	1	9	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4	4	7
13.	Madras	-	14	-
14.	Orissa	1	4	1
15.	Patna	-	5	4
16.	Punjab and Haryana	-	7	4
17.	Rajasthan	5	8	-
18.	Sikkim	-	-	2
	Total	71	81	68
II	Supreme Court	5	2	4

[Translation]

Sale of Coal

1133. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) when the sale of coal from the coal depot of BCCL was started;

(b) the rate of dump charge per tonne taken at that time;

(c) the distance between these centralised dumps and collieries for which they were set up;

(d) the number of times the dump charge increased so far; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Coal sales from the coal depot (Satelite dump) of Bharat Coking Coal Limited was started from 29.7.1983 and the dump charges fixed at that time was Rs. 20/- per tonne.

(c) The distance between centralised dumps and collieries very from dump to dump. The average distance between dumps and collieries ranges between 3 to 5 Kms.

(d) and (e) The dump charges were increased in 1987, 1991, 1992 and 1996. Revision of dump charges were necessitated on account of operational cost of the dumps.